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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

October 10, 2019

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

The Honorable Adam Schiff
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. Capitol Building, Room HVC-304
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee
Rayburn Building, Room 2170
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
Rayburn Building, Room 2157
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
House Committee on Financial Services
Rayburn Building, Room 2129
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
Longworth Building, Room 1102
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
Rayburn Building, Room 2138
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Schiff, Chairman Engel, Chairman Cummings, Chairwoman Waters, Chairman Neal, and Chairman Nadler:

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the oversight of the Trump Administration. In light of recent events in Syria, I write today to urge you to investigate President Trump's potential conflict of interest in Turkey and whether that conflict influenced President Trump's decision to allow Turkey to wage war against our Kurdish allies in Syria. As part of this investigation, I also urge you to request the Trump Administration release the transcript of the call between President Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Immediately after Sunday's call between President Trump and President Erdogan, President Trump announced he was withdrawing U.S. troops from Northeast Syria, and that Turkey would soon be moving forward with a military operation in that region. This is a dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy for this region and an utter betrayal of our Kurdish allies.

This decision comes after President Trump personally acknowledged that he has a conflict of interest with Turkey, referring to a business investment in Istanbul. On December 2015, then-candidate Trump stated in a Breitbart interview, "I have a little conflict of interest 'cause I have a major, major building in Istanbul. It's a tremendously successful job. It's called Trump Towers."¹

What did President Erdogan say to President Trump that spurred this sudden change? Our foreign policy should not be conducted on a whim by an unstable and reckless Commander in Chief who is putting his business interests and the desires of authoritarian foreign leaders above U.S. national security.

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President Trump's actions are unacceptable, and I believe it is vital that you all investigate, in your respective Committees, the conflict of interest in Turkey that President Trump previously disclosed and to demand the White House release the complete transcript of their call.

Thank you for your continued work on these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Ryan", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

¹https://www.huffpost.com/entry/conflict-of-interest-donald-trump-syria-kurds-turkey_n_5d9bb7bfe4b0fc935edf5be0